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ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

203-52

AGREEMENTS REACHED TO STUDY CONTAMINATION AT OLIN CORPORATION/ MCINTOSH PLANT SUPERFUND SITE IN MCINTOSH, ALABAMA

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that Olin Corporation, a potentially responsible party for the Olin Corporation/McIntosh Plant Superfund site, has agreed to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at the site. The company already has performed extensive investigative and remedial work on the site under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), a federal law regulating currently generated hazardous waste. The site is on EPA's Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites.

"Public money from the Superfund Trust Fund will not have to be used for investigation of the site because of this agreement with the Olin Corporation," said Greer C. Tidwell, EPA Regional Administrator. Tidwell commended Olin for entering into the agreement. The Olin Corporation is the only potentially responsible party identified at the site to date.

The study will include an investigation to determine the extent of the contamination and associated risks, and an evaluation of alternate remedial strategies from which EPA will choose the most appropriate cleanup method. The study will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete.

All work done by the Olin Corporation will follow EPA guidelines, and EPA will be providing oversight of all activities and reviewing all reports. EPA will be conducting public meetings at various stages during the studies to keep the public informed and to solicit input. In particular, a public meeting to present and solicit comments on possible remedial strategies will be held near the end of the investigation. After receipt of public comment, a remedial alternative will be selected and implemented that will alleviate any future threats from the site.

The Olin Corporation/McIntosh Plant site which covers 1,500 acres is located east-southeast of McIntosh in Washington County, Alabama. The site is bounded by the Tombigbee river on the east, a Ciba-Geigy plant on the north, US Highway 43 to the west, and River Road to the south. Olin currently operates a diaphragm cell chlor-alkali facility which produces chlorine, caustic soda, sodium hypochlorite, sodium chloride and blending hydrazine.

Olin operated a mercury cell chlorine-caustic soda plant on a portion of the Site until December 1982.

Principal contaminants at the site are mercury, gamma-hexachlorocyclohexane, hexachlorobenzene, 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene and 1,4-dichlorobenzene.

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